

DeBows Crows

The Monthly Newsletter of DeBows UMC



January 2016

DeBows UMC

509 Monmouth Road
Jackson, NJ 08527
732-928-4475

Rev. Ernie Williams, Pastor
pastor@debowsunc.org

debowsunc.org
facebook.com/debowsunc



Sunday Worship Schedule

Bible Study	9:45 – 10:45 AM
Worship Service	11:00 AM
Sunday School	11:00 AM
Fellowship Time	After Worship Service
Choir Practice	12:30 PM

Prayer List



We Lift Up the Following People in Prayer

Madhavi Badey	Charlotte Stevenson
Chris Bitondo	Debra Quinn
Tina Clark	Cindy Raymond
Karen Hornak	Dean Sparling
Rudy & Jean Iannacone	Jim West
George Crews	Helen Kramer
Family of Lonnie Gray	Bert Pitcher
Stacie Allerton	Darleen's Family
Family of Fred Weeks	The Homeless

Bible Verse for Reflection

Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.



May you shine brightly in 2016!

Those in prison and those who guard them
Those in the Armed Forces and far from home
Those alone and/or estranged from family during the Christmas season
Those who serve and support the DeBows Food Pantry

NOTE: Please inform the Pastor when a name should be added or removed from the Prayer List. Also, contact the church office in the event of a pastoral care situation that might need Ernie's attention or response. Thank You.

A Word From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

There is a *Peanuts* cartoon where Charlie Brown is thinking while sitting under a tree. He is reading from the Bible. The passage is one from Exodus – it is about Moses hearing a word from above. Charlie is wondering what that must be like – hearing God’s voice from above. He looks across at Snoopy, and asks him if he has ever heard a word from above. In the little bubble over Snoopy’s head are the words: *“Attention all K-Mart shoppers.”*

In this season of bombardment we find ourselves doing all we can to slow down the rush and to ignore the noise. We are caught up in conflicts over priorities. The generation gap too frequently highlights the clash of values. And at the heart of it all is a valiant attempt on our part to find some way in which we may keep the Spirit of Christmas alive in the midst of so much that threatens to engulf, or drown, or even entirely repackage this event we hold dear. We are both resentful at the way Christmas gets hijacked as well as complicit in the hijacking! So, in the process, most of us determine to make the most of the season – to glean from it what is wholesome and uplifting. And we look for ways to allow our generosity to flow beyond those “near and dear” to us – reaching to those in crisis and need.

Our Christmas presents, what we give to each other, often seem to be fragile, lasting for a limited time. But the essence of Christmas cannot be broken. God’s gift of Christmas does not wear out or break. It transcends time and space. And thankfully it last well beyond the Christmas-New Year celebration!

One of the hymns/carols from my British Methodist Hymnal offers one of the finest

carols by Charles Wesley. It expresses in simple terms the immeasurable hopes of the Incarnation in what remains one of my favorite carols. It speaks of *“our God contracted to a span, incomprehensibly made man.”* How well that fits the story of this season! But then it goes on as follows describing what God has done in Christ:

He laid His glory by, He wrapped Him
in our clay;

Unmarked by human eye, the latent
Godhead lay;

Infant of days He here became, and
bore the mild Immanuel’s name.

Unsearchable the love that hath the
Savior brought;

The grace is far above or man or
angel’s thought;

Suffice for us that God, we know, our
God is manifest below.

He deigns in flesh to appear, widest
extremes to join;

To bring our vileness near, and make
us all divine;

And we the life of Christ shall know for
God is manifest below.

May you know the joy and blessing of this one who is made “manifest below” in your heart and home this Christmas. And may we always be joined together in our prayers for peace among all people (the widest extremes to join!) as we cross the threshold of the New Year.

Shalom!



Upcoming Events

2016 JANUARY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Happy New Year	2
3 Epiphany Sunday	4	5	6 Epiphany	7	8	9
10	11 Food Pantry	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Food Pantry	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Friday, January 1
Happy New Year

Sunday, January 3
Bible Study 9:45 AM
Epiphany Sunday 11:00 AM
Worship Service &
Sunday School
Choir Practice 12:30 PM

Wednesday, January 6
Bible Study 11:30 AM
Trustee Meeting 6:30 PM

Thursday, January 14
Wesley Club 6:00 PM

Sunday, January 10
Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship Service &
Sunday School 11:00 AM
Choir Practice 12:30 PM

Monday, January 11
Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM

Wednesday, January 13
Admin Council Meeting 6:30 PM

Saturday, January 16
Contemporary Worship Service 6:30 PM

Sunday, January 17
Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship Service &
Sunday School 11:00 AM
Choir Practice 12:30 PM

Sunday, January 24
Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship Service &
Sunday School 11:00 AM
Choir Practice 12:30 PM

Monday, January 25
Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM

Thursday, January 28
Wesley Club 6:00 PM

NOTE: Please visit www.debowsumc.org
for the most up-to-date schedule information.

Looking Ahead . . .

Wednesday, February 10
Start of Lent
Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM

Sunday, March 20
Palm Sunday Service 11:00 AM

Friday, March 25
Good Friday Service 7:00 PM

Sunday, March 27 - Easter
Resurrection Service 11:00 AM

DeBows Online

Visit DeBows UMC online at:

www.debousumc.org

Or

www.facebook.com/debousumc

**You can visit now on your smart phone
by scanning the below QR Codes.**

DeBows Website



DeBows Facebook



On the website you can access the most up-to-date information concerning schedules, events and activities, as well as current blog posts and general information about the church.

Emails can be sent to church staff via the "Contact Us" page. **Alert notices, such as cancellations due to bad weather, will also be posted on the website as needed.** Visit often for the latest information.

Inside the church you can connect to the WiFi service using the instructions found on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall.

Bible Study Opportunities

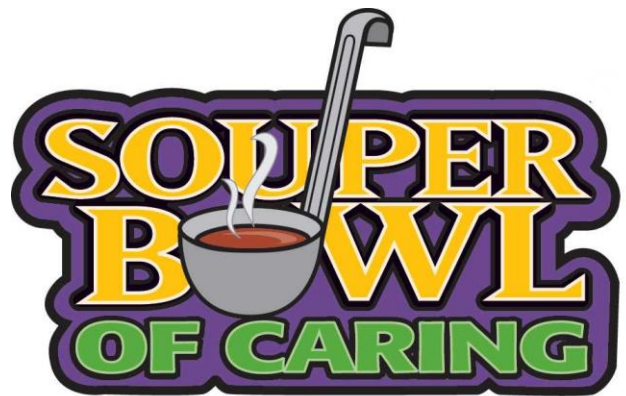
Women's Bible Study - This group meets in Fellowship Hall. – Sunday's at 9:45 AM

Adult Bible Study - This group meets in the class room downstairs. – Sunday's at 9:45 AM

Mid-Week Bible Study – This group meets on Wednesday's at 11:30 AM.

Please view the church calendar for the schedule of study topics. New class members are always welcome and can join at any time. Please join us as we study the Word of God.

"SOUPER" BOWL SUNDAY



You are invited to participate in a soup luncheon on Sunday, January 31st immediately after the Worship Service. Donations will be accepted that will help our Food Pantry. You may also help by contributing to the supplies by bringing cans of soup. Please remember, winter is the hardest season for those in need.

NOTE: This is the Sunday before the NFL Super Bowl and will not interfere with anyone's festivities or preparation for the big game. 😊

So, mark your calendar and come enjoy good fellowship, good soup and support a good cause!

Community Outreach

DeBows UMC was very active with community outreach during 2015 and the holiday season. We would like to offer a heartfelt **“Thank You”** to anyone who participated, supported, attended, or prayed for any of the below events. Together we “did” truly make a difference.

Food Pantry in 2015

Through November 2015, the DeBows Food Pantry served 1303 people (959 adults & 344 children). An average of 41 families per month received groceries from our pantry. Food was obtained from congregation & community donations and state and federal government free food programs. DeBows Food Pantry provides not only food but, when needed, a shoulder to cry on, an ear for those who need to share their burdens, a hug for those who feel alone, and above all else, hope and God's love.

Thank you to all who support the food pantry by their service, financial gifts, donated food, and prayers. Please know that YOU make a difference in the lives of those who visit our food pantry.

While the DeBows Food Pantry is active year round with twice a month distribution, they went the extra mile during November and Thanksgiving in particular. In November, the Food Pantry served 136 adults and 54 children, representing 64 families. We received 850 lbs. of food from various sources and want to acknowledge Tom & Karen who donated 30 thanksgiving dinner preparation kits that were distributed along with turkeys purchased from the Foodbank.



Thanksgiving preparation kits being readied for distribution.

Living Nativity

On Saturday, December 12th, DeBows presented a Living Nativity. This community event included live animals, music, hot soup & refreshments served in Fellowship Hall. The weather was great and made for an enjoyable evening as people once again were reminded of the miracle of Christmas. Special thanks to Pastor Ernie and Pastor Betty for procuring the animals, Guy for the lighting & sound setup, Grayce for the music and all the participating actors that brought the event to life.



The stable with some of the animals in the foreground.

Children's Home Society Gifts

DeBows once again participated in the Children's Home Society of Trenton Wish Gift program. The names of 20 children in the program were distributed to members of the congregation with suggested gifts for each child. For some of the children involved, these gifts will be the only present they receive for Christmas. We would like to thank Tom & Karen for coordinating this outreach activity.



Tom, Pastor Ernie and Theresa delivering the gifts at the Children's Home Society in Trenton.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry was a great success this year. 21 shawls were made and donated by members and friends of DeBows. There were enough shawls and stuffed animals donated to allow every person visited at the Care One Facility in Jackson to receive one.

Members of DeBows UMC and Cornerstone Presbyterian Church combined to visit Care One, sing some Christmas carols, and distribute the shawls and stuffed animals. Donna Ridge reported that the residents were very appreciative of the love shared during the visit.



Members of DeBows UMC and Cornerstone Presbyterian Church at Care One in Jackson.

Thank You for Your Support

The Finance Committee would like to say "Thank You" to everyone who ran/supported the various fundraisers conducted in 2015. They are an important part our financial planning.

Fundraising Notes:

- ❖ We had two successful Pasta Dinners in 2015 and the next one is scheduled for some time in June 2016.
- ❖ The Rada Knife fundraiser catalog is still valid until July 2016. We may run this fundraiser again in the Spring, so be thinking about want items you may want.
- ❖ The Grocery Shopping Cards continues to be our most effective & easiest fundraiser. People shop for food anyway and if they purchase the shopping cards prior to going to the grocery store the church realizes 5% profit. See Sue Hayward to purchase cards or to get further information.

Winter Word Search



Find 12 words associated with the season of Winter. Up, down, diagonally, forward or backwards. All words are in a straight line.

Snow	Cold	Solstice	Skiing
Gloves	Boots	Fireplace	Ice (2)
Skating	Scarf	Christmas	Blizzard

B	O	O	T	S	B	T	Y	T
F	I	R	E	P	L	A	C	E
G	Q	C	W	A	I	B	H	C
L	R	H	E	E	Z	O	P	I
O	W	A	N	F	Z	B	G	T
V	O	V	D	R	A	M	S	S
E	X	L	N	A	R	L	U	L
S	O	C	M	C	D	F	I	O
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S
L	S	K	I	I	N	G	I	N
P	S	K	A	T	I	N	G	O
C	B	G	S	R	E	K	T	W

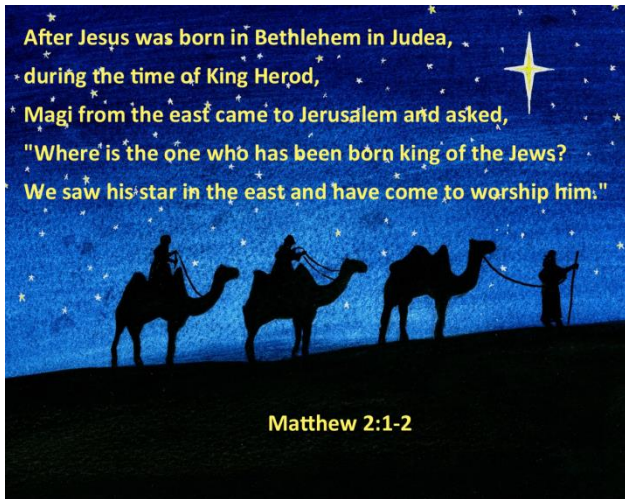
Did You Know?

- ❖ Feedback and/or suggestions for possible future newsletter content can be submitted by visiting the Contact page on the church website. Select “Newsletter Content” from the recipient pull down list and compose/send the email. Also, if you now receive the newsletter via postal mail and now have a valid email address, please let us know. This will help us control our printing and postage cost.
- ❖ DeBows UMC GPS Coordinates
509 Monmouth Road, Jackson, NJ 08527
Latitude: 40.1657445 | Longitude: -74.4159201
- ❖ You can access the Upper Room and other daily devotionals online by visiting www.debowsumc.org and selecting the “Daily Devotionals” page found under the Resources / Worship-Bible menu item.
- ❖ You may support the ministries of DeBows UMC online by using the “Make A Difference” button found on the left sidebar on the church webpage. All donations are tax deductible and will be reflected in your year-end giving statement.
- ❖ Bulletins for the Sunday service are available on a stand in the hallway leading to the side door of the sanctuary. Bulletins for children can also be found there.
- ❖ Large print hymnals are available for those that need them. Just ask an usher.
- ❖ A new sign-up sheet for Fellowship Time has been put on the table in the foyer. If you would like to host a Fellowship Time, please write your name by the week of your choice. Thank You for supporting this time of fellowship and hospitality.

Epiphany of the Lord

The word Epiphany is from the Greek word ἐπιφάνεια. Epiphaneia derives from the verb "to appear" and means "manifestation" or "appearance."

Western Christians observe the Epiphany of the Lord officially on January 6th (*immediately after the 12 days of Christmas or Christmastide: December 25 – January 5*). It commemorates the visit of the Magi (wise men) to see the Christ child as told in Matthew 12:1-12. Many view this event as the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.



Despite the fact many contemporary Nativity displays show the Shepherds and Magi visiting Jesus together immediately following His birth, the Magi most likely followed the Star of Bethlehem, bearing gifts, as much as two years later and saw Jesus as a toddler in a house with His mother Mary.

January 3rd is Epiphany Sunday. Please join us for this special worship service at 11:00 AM.

The Wise Still Seek Him

Training Opportunities



Training for church leaders has been scheduled for the Greater New Jersey Central Region. The "Back to Basics" training sessions cover topics for:

- ❖ Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee
- ❖ Board of Trustees
- ❖ Finance Committee/Treasurer
- ❖ Administrative Board/Church Council
- ❖ Lay Leader/Lay member to Annual Conference

There are 4 opportunities to attend:

<p>Sunday, January 31 3:00-4:30 PM St. Paul UMC 201 Levitt Parkway Willingboro, NJ 08046</p>	<p>Wednesday, February 10 7:30-9:00 PM Aldersgate UMC 568 Ryders Lane East Brunswick, NJ 08816</p>
<p>Sunday, February 21 4:00-5:30 PM Monmouth Grace UMC 76 Wycoff Road Eatontown, NJ 07724</p>	<p>Thursday, February 25 7:30-9:00 PM Whitehouse UMC 73 Old Hwy 28 Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889</p>

Also, the 2016 Greater New Jersey Central Region Day of Learning Workshops (*Formerly the District Day of Learning*) is scheduled for March 5, 2016 from 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM at Aldersgate UMC in East Brunswick.

More details will be made available in the near future for both training events. Please let Pastor Ernie know if you are interested in attending any of the training sessions.